

REPORT

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Historical data

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3. In either 1924 or 1925 Professor Johan Bela MD entered the US under a Ford Fellowship and took post doctoral work at a leading US university. Dr. Bela was a well known medical man for he served as the last chairman of the League of Nations Public Health Commission and as Hungarian Secretary of State for Public Health. When Dr. Bela completed his US studies, he left for Hungary with a deep respect for US medicine and medical practices. Due to his influence a number of Hungarian physicians accepted Ford scholarships, came to the US where they studied and learned US medical methodology and practices. They, of course, introduced US methods in research and medicine when they returned to Hungary.
4. The level of research in pre-World War II Hungary [] compared favorably with that of the US and the UK. Hungarian doctors, particularly surgeons, appeared to be on a par with US and UK counterparts. It must be borne in mind, however, [] never had sufficient funds to procure facilities for research and medical equipment on the scale of the US and the UK physicians. Consequently, [] lagged a little, but eventually were able to catch up.
5. With reference to the shortages mentioned above []
- A. Ultra microscopes were lacking; in fact, [] there are none in Hungary now [January 1954].
- B. [] there was only one electron microscope in the country [1949]. This microscope was in use at the University of Budapest.
- C. Tiselius electrophoretic apparatus - there was none.
- D. Ultracentrifuge - we had some, but not in sufficient quantity.
- E. Warburg Manometers - we had several, but not a sufficient number.
- F. Freeze-drying equipment was available, but only at the University of Budapest and not in adequate numbers.
- G. Deep-culture vats -- [] at all of the universities [] Hungary in 1949.
- H. Phase microscopes -- [] none.
6. The more prominent Hungarian medical men in 1940 were:
- A. Professor Albert de Szent Gyorgyi MD [] He was awarded the Nobel prize for biological oxidation and research in Vitamin C. Dr. Gyorgyi was known internationally, his name appeared in textbooks universally. [] his name can be found in US medical books. Prior to World War II he was a professor of medicine in Hungary. []

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- B. Professor Johan Bela MD is now February 1954 working in pharmacology at the Phyloxia Institute in Budapest. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- C. Professor Issekutz Bela MD had an outstanding reputation in central Europe in the field of pharmacology. He has published several texts and articles for journals in that field. Bela is now 1954 [redacted] teaching at the University of Budapest. 25X1
- D. Professor George Gortway MD, professor at the University of Budapest in 1954 was famous for his research in industrial and public health. He is currently in Budapest [redacted] 25X1
- E. Professor Stefan Went, who once did postgraduate work in the US as a Rockefeller Fellow, was prominent in the field of biology. Went is now February 1954 a medical professor at the University of Debrecen.
- F. Professor Eugene Kroner MD was a prominent physician and teacher. Professor Kroner was, incidentally, outstanding in pediatrics and prior to World War II taught at the University of Pecs. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- G. Josef Tomcik was prominent in the fields of bacteriology and environment. He also studied in the US under a Rockefeller grant. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- H. Professor (fnu) Zechmeister [redacted] was one of Hungary's most outstanding chemists prior to World War II. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- I. Prior to World War II there were four medical colleges in Hungary. They were located at Budapest, Debrecen, Pecs and at Szeged. Each of these universities was well staffed personnel wise. From 30 to 40 professors, all MD's, were on the staffs of each of these universities. Among the faculty members of each school were several outstanding men [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] In reference to the educational background of the aforementioned scientists, they all took their degrees at Hungarian medical schools. Most of them took their post doctoral research and study in the US under various US subsidies. 25X1
- J. Their accomplishments were by and large accepted internationally, particularly in Germany, Switzerland and in the US.

Present Trends in Research

7. The majority of Hungarian medical professors engaged in national research up to 1945 were intelligent, sincere and religious men. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the Hungarian medical situation was in a state of disorganization, this included research as well. 25X1

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8. The professors engaged in research in 1945 were under the constant scrutiny of secret police who even attended lectures given by the professors. From 1945 to 1948 the Soviets engaged in imposing their own doctors and research specialists. (Approximately 10% of the medical personnel during these years were from the USSR -- Russian speaking specialists.) By 1948 Communist Party influence in all fields of science was very much in evidence throughout Hungary.

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cannot recall a single outstanding contribution in medicine or any of the life sciences since 1945. It must be remembered, however, that Soviet or Soviet inspired professors in Hungary control, guide and supervise research within the country as of today [February 1954]. Among these is, of course, Professor Stefan Rusznyak who is often found visiting Moscow. A number of Hungarian physicians and scientific personnel have been sent from time to time to the Soviet Union where they have engaged in teaching and research. This practice began in 1945 and continues to the present day [1954]. As a result, any important discoveries or contributions would be reported from the USSR and lauded as Soviet accomplishments. The old-line professors from Hungary, in most cases, refused to travel to the USSR. Those who do take such journeys are either middle-aged or younger men.

11. The last time that Hungarian professors visited the US and returned to Hungary was in 1949. These professors, of course, returned to Hungary with latest US developments in various fields of research such as physiology, bio-chemistry and microbiology. In addition to this information they also purchased and transmitted to Hungary large numbers of texts dealing with each field.

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Organization and Administration of Medical Research

13. To say that research in Hungary is government controlled doesn't necessarily follow. It is Communist controlled and as such is directed by the Communist organization called Health "Kader". The "Kader" is staffed with men of little qualification for research. Under its guidance, people who are favorable to the new government and accented by the Communist Party are engaged in research projects. [redacted] these men are inept. They may have a general idea of research, but are unable to fulfill in detail research projects. To say that extensive research is carried out in Hungary is not true. The more eminent German and Hungarian doctors engaged in research do not work in Hungary but in the USSR.

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Research Facilities

14. The independent (pre World War II) research programs and individual research institutions of Hungary are now [February 1954] under direct control and jurisdiction of Communist leaders and directors. Two Hungarian Communists, perhaps the most influential in shaping the medical research programs and determining scientific policies are Dr. Emil Weil and Professor Stefan Rusznyak. All Hungarian research institutions feel their impact. The Minister of Public Welfare, the Minister of Public Health and the Ministry of Education (which authorizes and approves the university research programs) all must obtain sanction and approval for projected research from the two previously mentioned individuals.

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15. Dr. Weil and Professor Rusznyak are key personnel in the Communist "Kader" [Communist Scientific Headquarters]. Outwardly it appears that with all the influence wielded by these two men, the "Kader" coordinates very closely scientific activity with the wishes of the Kremlin. This "Kader" has taken over the National Research Council and the National Academy of Science. These two institutions exist, but in name only, for their powers and functions have been usurped by the "Kader".

16. Orszagos/Kozegeszsegugyi/Intezet [National Public Health Institute] is often referred to as OKI. It is located in Budapest on Gyal Street no. 4. [redacted] it operates under directions from the Communist "Kader". OKI conducts research in numerous channels; it doesn't specialize in one or two fields. The Public Health Institute has a number of functioning branches or sections. These are:

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- A. The Nursing School
- B. Department of Nutrition
- C. Communicable Diseases
- D. Public Health Education
- E. Public Health Engineers

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The official director of OKI at present [February 1954] is Dr. George Gortvay. He was a former professor at the University of Budapest. [redacted] Gortvay engaged in considerable research in industrial public health. He should be known in the US because of the publicity given to the research which he had conducted in that field. Dr. Gortvay was placed in this lefty position under the Communist hierarchy [redacted]

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His subordinates at OKI are: (1) Dr. Josef Vikol is the Minister of Health for OKI. Prior to this public health position, Vikol was a captain in the Hungarian Army, active in military medicine. When the USSR Army first entered Budapest and set up its post-war government, Vikol was placed in his present position. He appears to have the confidence of both the Hungarian Communist Party and the Soviet Union as of December 1953. (2) Dr. Scheff Dabis Laslo [Ladislau] (3) Dr. Farago (last name not recalled), professor and Rockefeller fellow [redacted]

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17. Szekisfovarosi Kozegeszsegugyi Intezet [Szekisfovarosi City Public Health Institute]. 25X1

18. Eotvos Lorant Rok-Kutato Intezet [Cancer Research Institute] is located in Szekisfovarosi [street not recalled].

19. Eotvos Lorant Rok Kutato Intezet [Cancer Research Institute], Bakaacs Street no. 12, Budapest, Hungary.

20. Budapest Kozegeszsegugyi Intezet [Budapest Public Health Institute]. This institution confines its research to problems pertinent only to the health of Budapest proper. Dr. Julius Vilmon is now [February 1954] the director of the above institute. [redacted] The Chief of Public Health in Budapest and perhaps subservient to Dr. Vilmon is Dr. Ignac Bakacs, his last name used to be Braun. [redacted] During the course of the Spanish Civil War in 1936 this individual accompanied USSR Communists to Spain where he served as their physician. When the USSR forces came to Hungary near the end of World War II, Bakacs, along with Mrs. Vas and Dr. Emil Weil, returned to Hungary with them. [redacted] The assistant to

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Influential Medical Personalities

21. Dr. Emil Weil, former Ambassador to the US who departed from the US approximately three months ago [1953] at the request of the US government is now [February 1954], and was previously also, Chief of the Communist Physicians' Labor Union of Hungary. Emil Weil has perhaps the most formidable position in the entire medical setup in Hungary. He determines where and when medical personnel will be assigned, whether

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or not they should be sent to labor camps, or for that matter, what should be done with those considered disloyal.

22. Wielding power on a level with Dr. Emil Weil and Professor Stefan Ruzsnyak in Hungarian medical science (which includes medicine, public health, physicians, drug concerns, etc.) is Mrs. Vas, also known as Mrs. Sari. This woman, now [redacted] handles Communist medical interests throughout the entire country. She also has the power to discharge personnel, to handle and manipulate matters as she deems necessary to the interests of the Communist Party in Hungary. 25X1
23. The Public Health Counsel for Hungary is Dr. Petenyi. He was once assistant professor of medicine at the University of Budapest. 25X1
24. The President of the Soviet Hungarian Scientific Society is Dr. Stefan Ruzsnyak. Prior to this position he was professor of internal medicine at the University at Szeged. Ruzsnyak [redacted] spends approximately one month of every six in the Soviet Union. Ruzsnyak, as Director, is in charge of all scientific research conducted throughout Hungary. [redacted] he is extremely capable intellectually and was considered one of the foremost medical scientists in pre-war Hungary. His specialty is kidney biology. 25X1

Personnel Potential

25. In my estimation there are a sufficient number of well-trained junior scientists and laboratory technicians available for research. [redacted] It appears [redacted] that the training is prodigious, is intensive, and most exacting even though the projects are sponsored and directed by Communists. It must be remembered that a number of the capable professors are at present teaching in these universities. Many of these people are doctors of medicine. Relative to the caliber of this personnel, [redacted] 50% as being better than average by reputation and experience. The remaining 50% are [redacted] inept and unqualified (a situation which stems from political patronage and political philosophy). The first 50% [redacted] carry the load for those who drag their heels. 25X1

Facilities

26. Research facilities, research institutions and the large plants such as Chinoin, Visted, Richter, Phylloxia, Bayer and Isenti have all fallen victims to nationalization. No longer are they privately owned, no longer do they pursue independent and objective research. The laboratories of all these institutions, in addition to the various national foundations, have lost their independent and individually private identities. [redacted] several of the above plants were damaged during World War II, but by 1950 all were totally repaired and physically capable of 100% production. [redacted] funds for projects deemed vital to the New Hungarian State were always available through "Kader". 25X1
27. At the end of World War II quantities of medical equipment and laboratory machines were transferred from Hungary to Austria with some of this equipment being shipped to Argentina. [redacted] some of it is still in Austria, but much had been returned to Hungary to the Communists. 25X1
28. Ultracentrifuge, Warburg manometers, freeze-drying equipment and deep culture vats were in existence in Hungary in 1950 [see paragraph 5 above]. It must be remembered that although the amounts seem inadequate by US standards, they were sufficient for the needs of Hungary which even today [1954] has less than 10 million people. Most research equipment was domestically manufactured. There was some import from Jena, [redacted] 25X1

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East Germany and from Siemensstadt Berlin, USSR Zone. Such imports were comprised of small precision instruments such as microscopes.

29. All of the facilities which Dr. Johan Bela built up and developed prior to Communist control are still in existence throughout the various health centers in Hungary. By and large, the personnel employed at the Public Health Institute have had medical training.

Production

30. Chemicals, media, dyes, glassware, light microscopes, X-ray film, medical instruments, and similar apparatus were locally manufactured in quantities parallel to the needs of Hungary. The pre World War II Eastman Kodak Company located at Vatz, near Budapest, is very well equipped. It turns out most of the slides, X-ray film and cameras utilized in Hungarian research.

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34. The source of patients for clinical research, that is at the hospitals and out-patient clinics, is composed by and large of social security patients. Practically all of the postwar employees, professional and non-professional, are covered under the New State Socialized Medical Program. () it is 100% socialized medicine.)

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Prevalent Medical Problems

35. There is a potential for real accomplishment under the present medical setup in Hungary. It could devote its efforts to eliminating existing ailments. The following need attention: (1) TB, (2) venereal disease, the usual types (gonorrhea and syphilis) which were spread by the Soviet forces among the Hungarian population, (3) undernourishment -- primarily the lack of proteins which in general affects the physical being of a majority of the Hungarian population -- it is weak and debilitated, (4) lack of vitamins (a dire need). This has brought about a widespread condition of tooth decay and rickets. An adverse effect due to the lack of vitamins and proteins can best be described by the fact that Hungarian workers are unable to fulfill the norms that are set up by the New State, (that is the Communist state). Stakhanovites, in particular, are affected because in this realm of Soviet and socialized endeavor such individuals must be 100% physically fit. The conditions as described above are perhaps at their worst in the forced labor camps. Within such camps, () today [1954] there are at least 300 thousand Hungarian citizens, the bulk of them representative of the middle class of that country.

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Potential for Research

36. Should the new state decide to step up Hungarian research, lack of personnel should not prove a bar; for when the Soviets entered Hungary they card indexed all scientists and research workers according to their abilities and specialties. However, () the USSR is not interested in the welfare of the total population of Hungary, but will direct such research as it deems necessary to fulfill its own requirements.

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Publication of Scientific Papers and Norm Requirements

37. Prior to World War II it was difficult to have scientific papers published for the simple reason that such scientific papers and research results were critically scrutinized by competent people at the universities and scientific organizations throughout the country. Such offerings were checked by experts who passed upon their merits. This is not the case in present day Hungary for the Soviet program appears to be interested only in numbers (production) rather than quality. Therefore, it designates and assigns projects to its personnel without due consideration for the quality of the finished product. Quality is not necessarily the essential point. The end in view is mass production and fulfilling the norm requirements. Proposed research programs are those selected by the new Hungarian state and devised primarily to meet the needs and requirements of the Party and its personnel.
38. Research projects are always set up under the five-year plan, similar to that practiced in the Soviet Union.

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Library Facilities

39. When the Soviet occupation forces first arrived in Hungary and manipulated control over the universities, they were keenly interested in the library facilities of the country. Immediately after they had taken over the libraries, there was a mass burning of texts and scientific journals, periodicals, etc, primarily those which had not been written or developed by the personnel who were placed in key positions by the Soviets. After they had destroyed texts and documents, the various university professors in the field of medicine were quite concerned because of the lack of source material. Consequently the professors, even the Communists, searched throughout the various university towns for such texts. In most instances, what texts were obtained were collected from private sources. The setup today is such that all scientific writings, no matter whether they be periodicals, journals, texts, etc., are acquired directly through the offices of Professor Stefan Ruzsnyak.
40. The average professor can procure only the following scientific writings: (1) those of USSR origin, (2) East German origin, (3) Swiss origin, (4) other satellite countries. The USSR writings used as source material contain short resumes lifted from publications from other parts of the world (from those fields of scientific research which are of manifest interest to the Soviet Union). Such extractions are translated into Hungarian. as late as 1950, each research facility had its own library.
41. Scientists definitely do not have ready access to medical literature from foreign countries (other than the Eastern orbit). In order to avail themselves of foreign medical publications, they must contact Dr. Ruzsnyak and Dr. Petenyi who control such publications. Publications from the US and the Western powers are not available. This is so because Ruzsnyak controls the release of such publications. For political reasons, he does not release such works to scientific personnel. Provision for translation of foreign documents is effected through the office of Dr. Ruzsnyak.
42. With reference to foreign journals which are read by scientists, the majority are USSR, East German, Swiss, and the satellite countries. Swiss journals are now /1954/ censored by the offices of Dr. Ruzsnyak.

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Hungarian Medical Literature

43. Scientific medical literature published and available in Hungary is as follows:

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- A. Orvos Szakszervozt Kozlowsy [Physicians' Trade Union Magazine]
 B. Orvosi Hetilap [Physicians' Weekly Newspaper]
 C. Orvos Kepzes [Physicians' Post Graduate Education Magazine]

Textbooks written in native Hungarian are of good quality following:

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- A. Gyogyszerek es Gyogitas, Volumes I and II, written by Dr. Issekutz Bela, published in Budapest in 1948.
 B. A Stomaetologia Tankonyve written by Dr. Balogh Karoly, published in 1948.

Foreign Influence in Hungarian Research

44. Foreign influence most prominent in Hungary in the past with reference to medicine and medical education was perhaps about equal with German and US predominant. As previously mentioned, large numbers of Hungarian medical men did both postgraduate work and research in the US under various scholarships and grants. On the other hand, goodly numbers of Americans availed themselves of both undergraduate and graduate medical education in Hungary, primarily at the University of Budapest and at all of the large hospitals.

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[redacted] USSR influence today is obvious. Approximately 10% of the medical personnel are from the USSR. Influence since the end of World War II is obviously Soviet. Researchers are not even allowed relative freedom in their choice of the methods to the approach of a problem. Such activity is governed by Professor Rusznyak, the individual mentioned throughout this report. [redacted] no doubts that he coordinates very closely with the Kremlin as to the leeway which he will permit to research personnel. [The framework is pretty much the same throughout the other Soviet satellites. It all comes from the same pot.]

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45. Freedom of correspondence with foreign scientists is restricted. Correspondence with foreign scientists up until mid-winter 1947 (when the Hungarian treaty was signed and the US and UK delegations withdrawn) there was considerable freedom. However, after these two nations' representatives left Hungary, an appreciable tightening began. It was done in gradual steps. Although some correspondence was permitted for a time with Westerners, by mid-1948 a total tightening up concerning correspondence with foreign scientists took place. The first rough step, [redacted] was Christmas eve 1947 with the Communist imprisonment of Cardinal Mindzenty. Shortly thereafter the curtain was drawn tighter. It was effected by various Communist personalities in Hungary who sought reprisal against those scientists whom they had occasion to dislike.

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Travel Restrictions

46. Physicians and research personnel are not allowed to attend international conferences and meetings in the Western zones, only in the East and the satellites. [redacted] only scientists whose background is such that it is compatible to the interests of the Communist Party and to the Soviet Union, can enter Hungary. In case an innocent scientist interested only in scientific research work should apply for an entree into Hungary, his background was closely scrutinized. If he were from one of the Western countries, you could almost wager that he was sympathetic to Communism. Thus, [redacted] it is practically an impossibility for a scientist from the West to get into Hungary or any of the Eastern countries. The scientists in the Eastern zones, in Hungary in particular, realize full well that it would be very dangerous for them to in any way affiliate with or express an interest in scientists from the West.

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Salaries

47. Salaries are absolutely not adequate. The monthly salaries as of this year [1954] are from 800 to 1200 florins. In US currency this means a salary of from \$25 to \$37 per month.

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54. The only two countries in which students are permitted to engage in foreign education are the USSR and East Germany. Research institutes other than universities which offer postgraduate training are OKI and the Budapest Public Health Institute. [] sufficient numbers of students are being trained to assure a continuing supply of competent research scientists. []

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